

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 151

Introduced by Assembly Member Vargas

January 21, 2003

An act to add Section 41514.15 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to air pollution, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 151, as introduced, Vargas. Air pollution: importation of electrical energy: mitigation fee.

(1) Existing law designates air pollution control districts and air quality management districts as having the primary responsibility for the control of air pollution from all sources other than vehicular sources. Existing law also designates the State Air Resources Board as the state entity responsible for the coordination and review of all levels of government in their efforts to control air pollution.

This bill would require any person that imports electrical energy into the state, or causes electricity to be imported into the state, to pay up to a \$0.001 per kilowatthour air contaminant emission mitigation fee for that electricity, but not to exceed the cost of mitigation, as determined by the state board. The bill would impose the fee only if the electricity is produced by an electrical generating facility, as defined, that is owned by a person domiciled in the United States, located within an air basin shared by a district and Mexico, and located in Mexico within 100 kilometers of the United States border. Additionally, under the bill, the fee would only apply if the electrical generating facility's initial production of electricity occurred after January 1, 2003, and the state board determines that the electrical generating facility was not

constructed using the best available control technology (BACT) for air contaminants.

The bill would establish the Imported Electricity Air Pollution Mitigation subaccount in the Air Pollution Control Fund, and would require the air contaminant emission mitigation fees to be deposited in that subaccount. The bill would make the moneys deposited in the subaccount from the mitigation fees continuously appropriated without regard to fiscal years, thereby making an appropriation.

The bill would require the state board to distribute the revenues generated from the mitigation fees to each district in the state that the state board determines is directly impacted by emissions of air contaminants from those electrical generating facilities, and would require each district receiving those revenues to fund projects within their jurisdiction to mitigate the environmental or health impacts of electricity generation facilities. By prescribing additional duties on districts, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 41514.15 is added to the Health and
- 2 Safety Code, to read:
- 3 41514.15. (a) Any person that imports electrical energy into
- 4 the state, or causes electricity to be imported into the state, shall
- 5 pay an electrical generation fee in the amount described in
- 6 subdivision (b) to the state board to mitigate the air pollution
- 7 caused by the generation of that electricity, if the electrical
- 8 generating facility that generated the electricity meets all of the
- 9 following criteria:
- 10 (1) Is owned by a person domiciled in the United States.
- 11 (2) Is located within an air basin shared by a district and
- 12 Mexico, as determined by the state board.
- 13 (3) Is located in Mexico.



1 (4) Is located within 100 kilometers of the United States border.

2 (5) First produced electricity after January 1, 2003.

3 (6) Was not constructed using the best available control
4 technology (BACT) for air contaminants, as determined by the
5 state board.

6 (b) The electricity generation mitigation fee described in
7 subdivision (a) shall be assessed by the state board at a rate of not
8 more than \$0.001 per kilowatthour of electricity that is imported
9 into the state, but not to exceed the cost that the state board
10 determines is necessary to mitigate the environmental or health
11 impacts of electricity generation facilities meeting the criteria
12 described in subdivision (a) and any associated administrative
13 costs to each impacted district.

14 (c) The fees collected by the state board pursuant to subdivision
15 (a) shall be deposited into the Imported Electricity Air Pollution
16 Mitigation Subaccount, which is hereby established in the Air
17 Pollution Control Fund. Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the
18 Government Code, moneys deposited in the subaccount pursuant
19 to this section shall be continuously appropriated to the state board,
20 without regard to fiscal years, for the purposes described in
21 subdivision (d).

22 (d) (1) The state board shall distribute the revenues that are
23 deposited in the subaccount pursuant to this section to each district
24 that the state board determines is directly impacted by emissions
25 of air contaminants from an electrical generating facility that
26 meets the criteria described in subdivision (a), in the proportion
27 that the state board determines the district is impacted.

28 (2) A district receiving revenues pursuant to paragraph (1) shall
29 utilize those moneys to fund projects within their jurisdiction that
30 the district determines will mitigate the environmental or health
31 impacts of electricity generation facilities meeting the criteria
32 described in subdivision (a).

33 (e) For the purposes of this section, ‘electrical generating
34 facility’ means every electrical generating unit of a powerplant
35 that is located at a common site in Mexico. If more than one
36 electrical generating unit exists at a powerplant project, all of the
37 electrical generating units shall be deemed to be part of one
38 electrical generating facility.

39 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
40 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because

- 1 a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service
- 2 charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or
- 3 level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of
- 4 Section 17556 of the Government Code.

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